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Flora Stevenson to H A Hall, 24 January 1897

The Park

Jan 24 1897

My dear Aubury

I hope you will not think me unkind for not writing before but to tell the truth I have no news. I am pleased to be able to say that I am in the best of health now, I took medicine from the Dr here for two months and it has done me the greatest good. I am better than I have been for ten years. I have no news about Fred, he did not sell any of his claims, but hopes he may in time, he has been in Perth most of his time since new year but now he is working for a party of Surveyors who are sounding the river not far from Perth, he spends each Sunday in Perth and says his work is not hard, he will remain at that until he gets some thing better to do, which I hope will be soon. We have plenty of ripe fruit. The time does pass so fast, that I think we are all getting old too quickly. We have not heard or seen any thing of Ernest I suppose he is having such a good time with his relations about the Swan that he does not think of us. I don't think he would have a very lovely time if he came to the Blackwood, the men here are always working don't give them selves time to have any pleasure, hard work from morn till night, even Father does not like to see Walter playing, I don't care to see children working when they are small they have to work hard enough when they are men, I do hate to see people always working and never having a weeks pleasure. I have written to Eva today, she wrote to me the same time you did, by her letter I suppose that the engagement was broken off, so I have asked her if she cannot save to make a home what is the use of being engaged to him. I did not say this to her, I would not hurt her feelings. I do wish she could marry some one who would keep her well so that she would have no trouble about money. I am fond of Eva and am anxious to see her settled, if I could afford it when we have a home I should like to have her come and stay with us, but I do not know how we will be situated, I do hope we will not go to the gold fields. Fred was offered a good salary to manage a mine out [?there] but I don't wish him to go so far if he can manage without. The bush is all alight round here and the people are

having great work trying to put it out, it should not be burnt until March, and it is only Jan, the sheep and cattle will starve long before the winter comes. Godfrey and Gerald have been working for some days trying to put it out. You will be surprised to hear that my brother in law Jim Inglis signed the man and woman who Fred brought from the north they were lent to him for a time and he persuaded them to sign to him, when Fred came they ran away from Jim and came here and told us that they would not go back to him. Fred asked him to give them up and he would not, so it is the cause of us being on bad terms. I will not be friends with any one who treats my husband in such a manner. I do dislike not speaking to my sister but she had just as much to do with the offence as he had, all my people are cross with him for doing such a [?horrid] [?trick]. I must close hoping to hear from you again soon

I am your affec cousin

Flora Stevenson

PS Roy Carey is spending his holidays here he and Walter have a good time of it he does not take much after our family. Harry and Alex are still with their Aunt Frances.